

#### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Change title to:

--Pneumatic tire with tread having cross-sectional shape of circumferential grooves varying in stepwise manner along circumferential direction--

See MPEP 606.01.

#### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Japan 714 (JP 2001-219714) discloses a pneumatic tire with a tread comprising outer circumferential grooves wherein the cross sectional shape of the outer circumferential groove varies in a stepwise manner along the circumferential direction. See Figure 1. However, the bottom of the outer circumferential groove varies in the axial direction instead of the radial direction. The prior art fails to render obvious modifying Japan 714 such that positions of groove deepest portions vary in a predetermined cycle as set forth in lines 3-5 of claim 1 and the depth direction positions vary in the radial direction as set forth in lines 6-13 of claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### EXAMINER'S COMMENT

3) With respect to applicant's description on page 6 of the response filed 1-12-11 of the interview on 1-6-11, examiner comments "INTERVIEW SUMMARY OK".

4) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven D. Maki whose telephone number is (571) 272-1221. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steven D. Maki/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1747

Steven D. Maki  
March 25, 2011